



## **Religious Education Policy**

‘Growing in Faith and Learning’.

### **Our Vision**

Our vision is to be an Outstanding church school, guided by God, where learning is irresistible, achievement for all is high and pupils leave us successful learners, happy confident individuals and caring responsible citizens excited by challenge, change and possibility.

### **Intent Statement**

Religious Education is taught using the Diocese of Lichfield’s Guidance following the ‘Understanding Christianity’ scheme. It is our intent that Religious Education promotes the Christian concept of the Trinity to engage and inform, equipping our children with the knowledge and skills to ask and seek answers to challenging questions. We provide an irresistible curriculum that not only develops our children’s understanding of their own faith and values, but also encourages them to flourish as individuals. This enables them to make sense of religion and to be able to reflect on their own views. We provide our children with opportunities to learn about world religions and views in local, national and global contexts, to discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions. As a result, they will become independent, empathetic and responsible members of society who understand and explore big questions about life. They will be encouraged to find out what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities whilst also embracing our vision of how to live as Christians, with a sense of Hope, Community, Dignity and Wisdom.

### **Introduction**

Religious Education (RE) plays an important role in defining our school’s distinctive Christian character. The SIAMS schedule 2018 (Strand 7) makes it clear that RE should reflect the school’s Christian vision. The subject is regarded as a core subject within the school’s curriculum. It has a vital role in developing religious literacy and deepening pupils understanding of Christianity, in all its forms, and fostering appreciation and understanding of other faith traditions. RE is treated as an academic subject in its own right.

As the Church of England document, ‘**Making a difference? A review of Religious Education in Church of England schools 2014**’ recommends that the RE curriculum in all schools should,

*“...ensure it provides a more coherent, progressive and challenging approach to the teaching of Christianity within the context of the wider exploration of the diversity of religion and belief in the modern world”*

*“...explore ways of extending pupils’ ability to think theologically and engage in theological enquiry as part of their learning in RE”*

## **Purpose**

RE teaching at this school will be in line with the recommendations of the **Statement of Entitlement for Church Schools**, published by the Church of England Education Office (Feb 2019), see link below:

<http://smartfile.s3.amazonaws.com/d57a4d93b010f2ac6f24bc8cee2d789e/uploads/2019/02/NEW-RE-Statement-of-Entitlement-for-Church-schools.pdf>

Christianity will, therefore, be at least 50% of RE curriculum time. The teaching of Christianity is core to the teaching of RE in this Church of England school. However as a Church school we have a duty to foster an accurate and increasing understanding of world religions and worldviews. As a result, pupils will gain greater insight into the world in which they are growing up. They will also learn to appreciate the faith of others and develop a deeper understanding of their own ideas and beliefs. These outcomes must contribute to harmonious relationships within and between communities, promoting social inclusion and combating prejudice and discrimination.

## **Aims of RE**

- To help pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith through the exploration of core theological concepts using an approach that critically engages with text
- To help pupils consider the impact and connection that Christianity has on Britain's cultural heritage and the lives of people worldwide
- To enable all pupils to develop knowledge and understanding of other major world religions and world views and their impact on society and culture
- To give pupils a safe space to critically reflect on their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical convictions
- To help pupils to develop knowledge and skills in making sense of religious texts and teachings and understanding their impact on the lives of believers.
- To develop pupils' abilities to connect, critically reflect upon, evaluate and apply their learning to their own growing understanding of religion and belief, of themselves, the world and human experience.
- To develop an understanding of religious faith as the search for and expression of truth, and so to consider important human questions, values and concerns.
- To nurture understanding, respect and open-mindedness and inspire lifelong engagement with the study of religions and beliefs.

## **Outcomes of RE**

Pupils will have opportunities to:

- Think theologically and explore ultimate questions
- Give a theologically informed and thoughtful account of Christianity as a living and diverse faith.
- Develop the skills to analyse, interpret and apply the Bible text
- Engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of other faiths and none.
- Recognise that faith is a particular way of understanding and responding to God and the world
- Analyse and explain the varied nature and traditions of the Christian community
- Show an informed and respectful attitude to religions and world views in their search for God and meaning.
- Reflect sensitively on areas of shared belief and practice between different faiths

- Enrich and expand their understanding of truth
- Reflect critically and responsibly on their own spiritual, philosophical and ethical convictions.
- Express religious ideas with the appropriate language, vocabulary and terminology
- Be confident in expressing and nurturing their own faith journey

## **Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC)**

In addition the subject contributes to other areas of education and human experience and plays an important part of the wider programme of spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.

|                  |                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Spiritual</b> | Widening pupils' vision of themselves and their own experience, within the context of a growing awareness and understanding of God. |
| <b>Moral</b>     | helping each pupil develop their own informed values                                                                                |
| <b>Social</b>    | helping pupils understand some major forces shaping the values of our society                                                       |
| <b>Cultural</b>  | aiding pupils in exploring aspects of their own cultural heritage, and developing positive attitudes towards diversity.             |

Additional links will be found across the curriculum especially with **personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE)**, **Relationship & Sex Education (RSE)** and **British values**. RE can also make a positive contribution to enhancing creativity and enjoyment and ensure the well-being of all pupils.

## **RIGHT TO WITHDRAW**

At St. Leonard's School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education or collective worship on the grounds of conscience, without giving a reason. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to write to the head teacher who will then invite the parents into school to discuss their concerns, clarify the nature of the RE and worship provided by the school and set out the options open to the parents as set out in education law. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects. Where a pupil is withdrawn from RE and do not take part in alternative religious education they will be supervised by an appropriate member of staff whilst doing work set by their parents which will seek to further their knowledge and understanding of their parents' beliefs and values.

## **Role of the Subject Leader**

RE is given equal status with other core subjects in staffing, responsibility and resourcing. Pupil achievement in RE should equal or be better than comparable subjects. We strive to share effective practice locally and regionally and engage in professional development (SIAMS 2018). As a church school we recognise that it should be a priority to build up staff expertise in RE.

The RE subject leader is responsible for:

- producing a scheme of work for the school

- supporting colleagues in the detailed planning and delivery of RE provision
- ensuring Religious Education has status within the school
- keeping in touch with subject developments and disseminating information as appropriate
- auditing and recording current resources, supplementing resource provision when money is available and disseminating this information to staff
- undertaking personal development and subject training and ensuring provision for staff INSET
- monitoring RE provision, practice and outcomes in the form of lesson observations, pupil voice, book trawls
- ensuring rigorous systems of assessment are in place (SIAMS 2018) and are in line with the Local Agreed Syllabus
- creating the RE Action Plan and ensuring its regular review
- accountability for RE standards in the school
- meet with a link RE Governor regularly
- meet with a member of the Diocesan RE advisory team when possible

## Signed

Subject Leader: *L. Lowe*

Dated: 14.02.2026

Headteacher: *K. Cullen*

Dated: 14.02.2026

Chair of Governors: Rev Deb Dyson

Dated: 14.02.2026

Date for review: February 2027